

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disease characterized by extracellular plaques, the method comprising administering to the patient a herpes simplex virus (HSV) amplicon particle produced by a helper virus-free method comprising co-transfecting a cell with: (a) an amplicon plasmid comprising an HSV origin of replication, an HSV cleavage/packaging signal, and a heterologous transgene, wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a therapeutic protein that improves one or more symptoms of the neurodegenerative disease, (b) one or more vectors that, individually or collectively, encode all essential HSV genes but exclude all cleavage/packaging signals, and (c) a nucleic acid encoding a virion host shut-off (vhs) protein, wherein the nucleic acid encoding said vhs is separate from the amplicon plasmid of (a) and the one or more vectors of (b); ~~wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a therapeutic protein that improves one or more symptoms of the neurodegenerative disease.~~

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a molecular adjuvant.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the molecular adjuvant is tetanus toxin Fragment C or keyhole limpet hemocyanin.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the heterologous transgene encodes A β .

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the heterologous transgene encodes both A β and a molecular adjuvant.

35-48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the molecular adjuvant induces a Th2-mediated immune response.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disease characterized by extracellular plaques, the method comprising administering to the patient a herpes simplex virus (HSV) amplicon particle produced by a helper virus-free method comprising:

providing a cell expressing an accessory protein, wherein the accessory protein comprises a virion host shut-off protein and

transfecting the cell with: (a) an amplicon plasmid comprising an HSV origin of replication, an HSV cleavage/packaging signal, and a heterologous transgene, and (b) one or more vectors that, individually or collectively, encode all essential HSV genes but exclude all cleavage/packaging signals; wherein the heterologous transgene encodes a therapeutic protein that improves one or more symptoms of the neurodegenerative disease.